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LASCA NEWS

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.
Arcadia, California

February, 1958

A NEW PHILOSOPHY FOR DESCANSO GARDENS

The Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens was requested on January 29, 1958 by the County Board of Supervisors to operate Descanso Gardens, effective July 1, 1958. In making the request, the Supervisors accepted a tentative program for the Gardens. The emphasis and philosophy of this program is based on an educational function for Descanso Gardens.

The quest for knowledge is not what leads throngs to a recreational area, but it is precisely that which will bring visitors and students alike to the Gardens. The new approach will emphasize an educational program in gardening and horticulture and will be based on mass display gardens in which the various plant societies of Los Angeles County will be given the opportunity to participate. In keeping with the long established policy of governmental educational institutions, there will be no admission charge, so it will be possible for the Gardens to be enjoyed by more people than heretofore.

A group of public-spirited private citizens particularly interested in the development of Descanso Gardens is now organizing as a supporting unit. It is anticipated this group will be affiliated with the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., which sponsors the Arboretum at Arcadia.

The new program is in the early stages of planning. Suggestions and comments will be welcomed at any time. It is expected that about three years of actual experience will be needed to determine finally the role Descanso Gardens can play in our County. It is believed that if this program is successfully presented the results will be valuable and rewarding to the County as a whole.

ACTIVITIES AT THE ARBORETUM

Every gardener and plant enthusiast looks forward to Spring. This is the season particularly welcomed at the Arboretum where every portion of the grounds has bountiful displays of bloom. The South African section is already a colorful carpet of daisy flowers that will be enhanced by the pink Virgilia, the cream Gladiolus, and the unusual purple Hibiscus as the season progresses. The Australian areas are responding with early displays of Acacia and Eucalyptus flowers and the lovely blue Hibiscus.

A visit to the perennial display garden should be a Must on everyone's calendar this spring. Collections of prize-winning Iris, Narcissus and Daffodils will be out in March and April, with some carrying over into May. Close

by, many of the Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Reticulata Camellias present a beautiful floral picture. On top of Tallac Knoll the Cymbidium orchids will demand attention during the Easter season. Although there is something of beauty to be seen in the Arboretum every day of the year, Spring is the undisputed queen of flora seasons.

Two hundred members of the Arcadia Council of Camp Fire Girls in their ceremonial robes will conduct the third annual ARBOR DAY program at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia on Friday, March 7, at 3:30 P.M.

Mayor Robert F. Dennis of Arcadia will be master of ceremonies. Harold H. Scott will conduct the San Gabriel Youth Symphony of 73 musicians representing 34 schools in the valley.

The Camp Fire Girls will plant a triad of trees symbolical of the three-point Camp Fire program. Representatives of 14 other nationally-known youth groups of San Gabriel Valley, present to participate in the program, will receive trees from the Arboretum for planting elsewhere.

Honored guests will be members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles Beautiful Committee, the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., The Horticultural Institute, the Los Angeles Garden Club, the Men's Garden Club of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles County Forestry Department.

You are cordially invited to attend these ceremonies.

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During the week of February 3 - 6, the Spring Semester of the Educational Division of the Arboretum got into full swing. The following courses constitute the present schedule:

Home Gardening - Monday nights
Beginning Botanical Sketching - Tuesday mornings
Beginning Plant Identification - Tuesday evenings
Advanced Botanical Sketching - Thursday mornings
Practical Orchid Culture - Thursday evenings

In addition, there is the course in Home Landscaping Design and Principles for advanced gardeners, more specifically for students who have completed the Home Gardening course.

The Southern California Unit of the Herb Society of America, in cooperation with the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., will conduct another series of lectures on the kinds and uses of Herbs. These will be held during April and May. A course in Tree Identification for high school students and adults will also be held during April and May.

All courses are scheduled for a nine-week period. Announcements are carried in all County and Metropolitan newspapers. The information is released well in advance of the beginning of the course to allow ample time for registration. Pre-registration for a course is urged. Registration forms may be obtained by addressing Dr. Louis B. Martin at the Arboretum.

The Youth Education Section is currently conducting a class on Conservation for 16 students of Anoakia School for Girls.

A class covering Plant Explorers and Life in the Lagoon (for ages 10-12) will begin Saturday, March 22, and Thursday, April 17, respectively. Junior Bird Study will be available to all ages beginning Wednesday, March 12. We have made a fine beginning for a Junior Library for children currently registered in our classes. Children's books on any phase of natural history are a welcome gift to the library.

The Annual Meeting of the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., will be held in the afternoon of May 21, so mark your calendar and plan on being with us. You will be notified at a later date.

During the year 1957 the non-monetary gifts to the Arboretum through the Foundation are as follows:

Books valued at $962.35
Plants valued at $5,082.00
Miscellaneous Material
(includes pamphlets, periodicals, etc.) $103.00

We welcome Mr. Roger Jessup as a newly-appointed member of the Board of Trustees, and Mr. Arthur J. Will to the Board of Councilors.

The Foundation-sponsored Jeep Trains have been a great boon in helping to handle the ever-increasing attendance at the Arboretum. These trains have taken 1,680 tours through the Arboretum during 1957.

The public interest in the Herb Charts, Herb Cookie Books, Recipe Books, Orchid Books, Post Cards, sets of Colored Slides of floral and scenic views within the Arboretum, and the Queen Anne leaflet, has been most gratifying. These are all for sale at the Arboretum Gatehouse.

Would you like to know your Foundation and Arboretum better? If so, and if you have some spare time to volunteer for typing, filing, assisting in the mailing of various publications, working at the Gatehouse or in the Library, we invite you to drop a post card to the Foundation office. Please indicate your preference in time and activity, and include your telephone number.

7-21-58

LASCA NEWS

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July, 1958

Foundation members who are faced with problems in identification of plants in their gardens, or with plant disease problems, will be pleased to learn that Dr. Enari, the Arboretum Plant Taxonomist, and Dr. Ames, the Arboretum Plant Pathologist, stand ready to give them help.

Dr. Enari joined the Arboretum staff last year, coming from the University of Portland. Prior to that Dr. Enari had been director of the Botanic Gardens at the State University of Tartu (Dorpat), in Estonia. He is particularly interested in plant identification and, considering some of the samples sent to him, does a marvelous detective job in assigning the proper names. If you have occasion to bring material to Dr. Enari for identification, it will be most helpful if you can bring a flower and representative leaf of the species concerned.

Dr. Ralph Ames, the Plant Pathologist, joined our staff June 1. Dr. Ames has been head of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, and for the year before coming to the Arboretum conducted research in the Botany Department at the University of Michigan. He is particularly interested in diseases of horticultural plants and will be pleased to help you with your plant disease problems.

These men are frequently out on the grounds. It would be best to phone for an appointment to see them.

Mr. Glenn H. Hiatt joined the Arboretum staff as Orchid Specialist last year. Mr. Hiatt is a native Pasadenan with basic training in Horticulture and Landscaping at University of Southern California and University of California for five years. He worked on Hydroponics and Plant Nutrition with Dr. Hoagland; Research Assistant to Dr. F. W. Went; partner and owner of a commercial orchid business for 23 years. Past President of Pasadena Flower Show Association; Orchid Society of Southern California; Cymbidium Society, Inc., Garden Planners; served on the Board of the Southern California Horticulture Institute for several years. A Certified Judge of the American Orchid Society; Orchid Digest Corporation; Cymbidium Society; Orchid Society of Southern California. Has judged flower shows throughout United States.

FIRST CHILDREN'S EDUCATION PROGRAM AT DESCANSO GARDENS DURING AUGUST.

Plant and nature study courses for children, from the second to sixth grades, will be held during the month of August at Descanso Gardens in La Canada.

Any child is eligible to attend one course. Registration for the courses will be by mail only. Please write to:

Children's Education, Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada, California, for complete information and registration forms.

The following courses will make up the August program:

Plants are Alive (Grades 2 & 3). Simple experiments and fun with plants.

Exploring Nature (Grades 5 & 6). First hand experience with plants and animals of pond and chaparral.

Art in Nature (Grades 3 & 4 and 5 & 6). Emphasis will be on the observation and free expression of Nature's lines, forms, designs and colors found in plants.

Watch your local newspapers the early part of September for classes to be held at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

The suggestion has been made that if enough interest is shown, a series of six monthly evening lectures of one hour each could be arranged for Foundation members at the Arboretum.

These lectures might be on the following subjects: Botanical, Historical, Horticultural, Gardening or any other subject that would be of interest. Let us know of your preference as soon as possible.

Among the library acquisitions of the past year: Cockayne's VEGETATION OF NEW ZEALAND, a 3rd edition reprint; Decandolle's PRODROMUS; INDEX LONDINENSIS: reprints of Engler's PFLANZENREICH, as available; SANDER'S ORCHID GUIDE and lists to date; and a fine collection of interest to bird lovers.

Available for sale at the Foundation's office: LASCA MISCELLANEA, Vol. 1. This is an index compiled by G. H. Spalding for A BOTANIST IN SOUTHERN AFRICA by John Hutchinson. Price of index is $2.00, discount to members.

Members of the California Arboretum Foundation are cordially invited to an Informal Outdoor Program of Children's Art, Music and Drama to be presented at the Arboretum on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, July 29 and 30, by the Summer Workshops of Children's Theatre.

Beginning at 7:30 an exhibit of the art work will be on display in the new gardens. From there the audience will go by jeep-train to the Historical Area for entertainment, including puppet shows, folk singers, an orchestra and two plays: Oscar Wilde's "The Happy Prince" and A. A. Milne's "The Ugly Duckling".

Last summer's program featured the high school age group and this year it will be the junior high group which will appear along with the younger children. There is no charge for the program, although donations will be welcome. Children's Theatre is sponsored under

Children's Activities of the Arboretum Historical Committee and is operated as a cooperative, with any child welcome whose parents are willing to help out on the project. Information Chairman is Mrs. Herbert Meier, HIllcrest 7-0889.

George Spalding, our Arboretum Superintendent, has been selected by the United States Department of Agriculture, to undertake a plant collecting expedition to Australia. This is the fourth in a series of plant exploration trips made possible by grants to the United States Department of Agriculture from the Longwood Foundation. Previously, plant explorers have collected in Japan, the Mediterranean area and Brazil. Mr. Spalding will take a six months leave of absence from the Arboretum to accept this important assignment.

The purpose of the trip is to collect and send back to the Department of Agriculture plant materials which may be of value as ornamentals in the United States. The Australian flora is extremely varied and many of the plants found there are not found in any other part of the world. Southern California is particularly indebted to Australia for some of its finest ornamentals but the plants now being grown here represent only a small fraction of those which should be grown.

During his travels, Mr. Spalding will visit all of the major Arboreta and Botanic Gardens as well as nurseries and private estates. The trip will also include visits to areas where the native vegetation has been undisturbed. It will be made by air, by car, and on foot in order to cover all possible areas of interest.

We hope Mr. Spalding will bring back slides so that on his return Foundation members may see, as well as hear about, the interesting points of his trip. He expects to be back at the Arboretum on February 1, 1959.

It is with regret that we announce to our Foundation members the retirement of Mrs. Dolores Hubbell who has served the Foundation so well since April, 1956. We wish her happiness in her new role as mother and wife. She will be missed. Mrs. Eva Neal is assuming Mrs. Hubbell's duties in the Foundation office.

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A HOLIDAY MESSAGE

Dear Member, Christmas, 1958

As we approach the Christmas Holiday season it seems fitting that I should express my gratitude to our members and all the friends of the Arboretum for their continued interest and loyal support during the year 1958.

It is difficult to express in words the great sense of satisfaction which comes to those who are associated in an undertaking such as our Arboretum; and the feeling of achievement in the accomplishments we now have completed for use by the people who know how to enjoy them.

Those who constitute the staff of workers continue to show their devotion to their various duties, and much of the success and popularity of our institution is due to this attitude toward their daily tasks.

The great increase in attendance to a record 270,000 in less than eleven months attests to the need for what the Arboretum has to offer the citizens of Los Angeles County as well as those of all of California.

I am certain this program will continue, and that the members of the Board of Supervisors, who, through their vision and judgment have made the funds available to create this public facility, will continue to support it, and share with all of us in the Arboretum Foundation the pride and satisfaction of knowing the high regard in which our Arboretum is held by everyone.

Robert Casamajor, President

Research Grants to Arboretum

Two grants to support basic plant research at the Arboretum were made to the Foundation this fall. One award of $18,715 is from the United States Public Health Service to allow a two-year study of the effect of air pollutants on tissue growth of plants. (This also recognizes the outstanding quality of smog at the Arboretum!) The research will be conducted jointly by Marcella Juhren and W. M. Noble of the Air Pollution Control District and Arboretum staff members.

The second grant is from the National Science Foundation and will allow three years of study on an analysis of the food plant preferences of certain insects. The work will be carried out at the Arboretum and in the field by William Hovanitz and an assistant. A fund of $29,900 was awarded to support this project.

Frost damage at the Arboretum was light considering the lush growing condition most large-leaf "tropicals" were in. The meager rains to date were too little and too warm to help maturing of new growth - also deciduous material was slow in defoliating, hence some discoloring and even leaf burn on them also.

The Fruit Frost Service of the U. S. Weather Bureau has established an instrument box near the Jungle for determining temperature readings around the clock as well as a verifying minimum thermometer. Information will be given daily to Mr. Claude A. Cole, Meteorologist, and Mr. Roy Simpson, Broadcaster at Pomona. (This is in addition to our official station under Mr. J. T. McGah.) We hope this will be of great service to the Arboretum and plant growers of our community.

The next two months should see more flower color in the South African Section as the winter approaches, and also amongst the Eucalyptus collection in the Australian Section. Of course, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, and Camellias will be continuing with heavier flowering later in the winter. In the Garden of Eden or Tallac Knoll, Bromeliads are still blooming, the coffee trees are setting seeds and early adventurous Cymbidiums will be "jumping the gun"!

Have you seen the most up-to-the-minute gardens in America this week? New features in plants nearly every week - you can't afford to miss these Demonstration Home Gardens.

A reorganization of the guide service has been achieved to meet the increased attendance demand. The trams now operate daily except Monday from 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. without reservations. The tram driver gives a lecture and assists the visitor by answering questions. We have also placed historical commentaries on tape which play automatically in the Queen Anne Cottage and the Coach Barn. These new innovations have made more information and more of our services available to all Arboretum visitors.

Have you a curious mind? Our library is constantly acquiring books on many fascinating subjects connected with nature. ("The shaping of our own life is our own work." -H. Ware.) New to our library: The World Grows Round my Door. -Fairchild. Carnivorous Plants. -Lloyd. Australian Tree Portraits. -Mountford. An Easy Guide to House Plants. -Nehrling. Maintenance of Shade and Ornamental Trees. -Pirone. Miniature Trees and Landscapes. -Yoshimura. A Summary of the Culture of California Plants at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, 1927-1950, by Percy Everett. Flora of Malaya, Vol. I -Orchids by R. E. Holttum. Gabrielino Indians. -Bernice Johnston (Assembled from "Master Key"). Trees of Central Africa. -Olive Palgrave. Proceedings of the Second World Orchid Conference. -C. P. Mountford. Miniature Trees and Landscapes. -Yuji Yoshimura and G. Halford (Bonsai Culture). Hawaiian Flowers and Flowering Trees. -Loraine Kuck and R. C. Tongg. Native Plants for California Gardens. -Lee W. Lenz.

A gardener's best friend is string! At least, that's true according to Lasca's youngest gardeners! Early in October the Jr. Education section opened its first class in Gardening for ten interested boys and girls, 5th and 6th grade level. Each has taken over a 50 square foot plot for sixteen Saturday mornings, 10:00 to 12:00. They have worked out their own plot plans, made the safety rules concerning tool use and care, and have from 8 to 10 different kinds of plants already under way.

Radishes are nearly ready to harvest, cabbages, rhubarb, chard, stock and violas are showing the care used in transplanting them; onions are ready to thin, and soon the other bulbs will be up. Thinning, cultivation and insect control are chores to be sure, but seeing the response the plants make the very next week makes the value of such work self-evident.

Caterpillars do chew holes! Once a pack rat trimmed off half a row of the best radishes. Birds nip bits, but the Peacocks patrol constantly! That is where string comes in. Each garden plot has string pegged around it and along each row and planting. For some magic reason, though they look over and under and around the corner pegs, Peacocks don't cross the line. May the wonder of string never grow old to the Peacock family.

The second session for Fall, 1958, Arboretum Adult Education program is under way. We hope you were able to enroll in one or more of the courses offered. Our Spring, 1959 session will begin about the middle of February. Watch the newspapers for the announcement. Don't forget, we also have similar adult courses at Descanso Gardens, La Canada.

For information about courses either at the Arboretum or Descanso Gardens, you may call the Arboretum and ask for the Education Division.

GIFTS

The following items have been given to the various departments

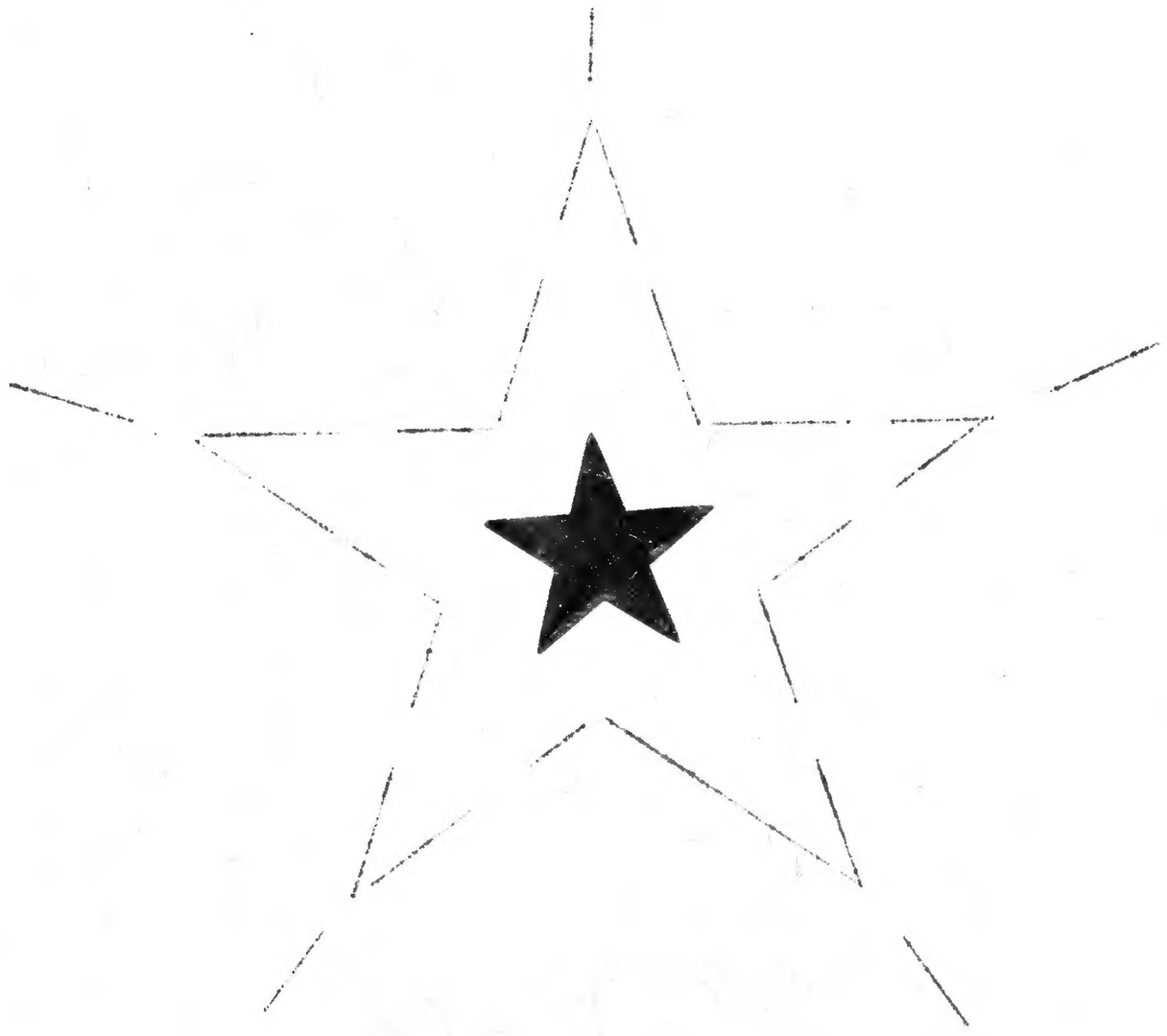
of the Arboretum through the Foundation. Congratulations to the Arboretum and sincerest thanks to the donors from the Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.:

> Mr. and Mrs. John Jewett Garland have donated money to build a display orchid greenhouse in memory of Mrs. William May Garland. They also donated approximately $1,500. worth of orchid plants.
>
> Mr. Arthur Freed has given a four-volume set of Reichenbachia for the Arboretum Library. This donation adds a classic of great value to the Library collection.
>
> The Oregon Bulb Farms donated $600. worth of assorted bulbs for the Home Demonstration Gardens.
>
> A much needed gift for the Library came from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bauer in the form of 3,000 Book Plates of outstanding beauty and so significant of the Arboretum. The drawing for the cut was made by Mr. Gerry Patton of the Arboretum Staff.

Why not include a Foundation Membership in your Christmas list for your garden-minded friends?

And so until next Lasca News, GOOD HEALTH, GOOD CHEER, AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

12-4-58



Neighbors and Friends of the Arboretum are Cordially Invited

to Participate in the

"THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POSADA AND OPEN HOUSE"

Sunday, December 14, 1958 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

301 N. Baldwin Avenue Arcadia, Calif.

Jeep trains will leave from the gatehouse at 5:30 P.M. to take you to the Carriage House for a continuous Puppet Show. You will then walk to the "Queen Anne Cottage" to watch a group of children sponsored by the Historical Committee present their yearly dramatization of "Las Posadas". It will be held out-of-doors in the Historical Section of the Arboretum, so bundle up in your warmest robes. You will be returned to the gatehouse by jeep train at the end of the program.

Hasta Luego y Feliz Navidad!

The Arboretum Staff